

AMENDMENTS**In The Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 1, insert the following paragraph:

**HEAVY-LOAD TIRES HAVING A RUBBER COMPOSITION
THAT DELAYS IRREGULAR WEAR**

On page 10, line 16, replace the paragraph beginning with "More preferably" with the following paragraph:

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More preferably, the silica has specific BET or CTAB surfaces, both of which are from 80 m²/g to 260 m²/g. The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) specific surface area is determined in known manner, in accordance with the method of Brunauer, Emmet and Teller described in "*The Journal of the American Chemical Society*", vol. 60, page 309, February 1938, and corresponding to Standard AFNOR-NFT-45007 (November 1987). The cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) specific surface area is the external surface area determined in accordance with Standard AFNOR-NFT-45007 of November 1987.

On page 19, line 18, replace the paragraph beginning with "For Compositions" with the following paragraph:

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For Compositions 3 to 6 according to the invention, SBR C is an SBR functionalized with hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane, such that it comprises a dimethylsilanol group at the chain end. Reference may be made to French patent specification FR-A-2,740,778 for a detailed description of the synthesis of this functionalized SBR.